



Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) Program Area

Annual DPA Report to the Board

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List of Acronyms

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AMG	African Market Garden
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa
ASM	Artisanal and Small-scale Mining
BMZ	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
CAD	Canadian Dollars
CAF	Corporate Assessment Framework
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	Community-based Natural Resources Management
CFP	Cities Feeding People
CFS	Canadian Forest Service
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel
CONDESAN	Sustainable Andean Development Consortium
CSPF	Corporate Strategy and Programming Framework
CUSO	(formerly) Canadian University Service Overseas
CYTED	Programa Iberoamericano de Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo
DANIDA	Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DFID	Department for International Development
DGIS	The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for International Cooperation
DPA	Director of Program Area
EcoCOP	EcoHealth Global Community of Practice
ECOHEALTH	Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health
EMS	Environment Management Secretariat
ENRM	Environment and Natural Resources Management
EU	European Union
FEMICA	Federation of Central American Municipalities
FURG	Fundacao Universitaria de Rio Grande
GRPI	Genetic Policy Research Initiative
GTZ	(<i>German for</i>) German Agency for Technical Cooperation
HABITAT	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICRAF	The World Agroforestry Centre
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for The Semi-arid Tropics
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDE	International Development Enterprise
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development

IMFNS	International Model Forest Network Secretariat
IPALAC	International Program for Arid Lands
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MAPPA	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Program in Asia
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
Minga	Managing Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean
MMSD	Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development
MPRI	Mining Policy Research Initiative
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
NRM	Natural Resources Management
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSSREA	Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern Africa and Southern Africa
PBDD	Partnership and Business Development Division
PDC	Participatory Development Communication
PI	Program Initiative
PLaW	People, Land and Water
PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding
RAF	Regional Activity Fund
RD	Regional Director
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific
Red MPE	Small Scale Mining Network
RUAF	Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SGM	Small Grant Mechanism
SGUA	Support Group on Urban Agriculture
SIGA	(<i>Spanish for</i>) Integrated Environmental Management System
SSA	Sub-saharan Africa
SUB	Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
SWIBD	Smallholder Water and Integrated Business Development
TCDC	Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries
TF	Task Force
UA	Urban Agriculture
UBA	Universidad de Buenos Aires
UK	United Kingdom
URBIS	International Congress of Cities
WDMF	Water Demand Management Forum
WEHAB	“Water and Sanitation”, “Energy”, “Health and the Environment”, “Agriculture” and “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management”
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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i. Executive Summary

During the period covered by this report, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto and the Stockholm Water Week refocused the world's attention on the fundamental role that sustainable, equitable and productive natural resource management must play in eliminating poverty and ensuring food security. The WEHAB (Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity) development framework that emerged at WSSD is well reflected in the focal points of research support that IDRC provides through the six Program Initiatives, two Secretariats and two Corporate Projects that fall within the Environment and Natural Resource Management Program Area. (See annexes to this report).

In this UN *International Year of Fresh Water*, we deliberately highlight the activities, impact and influence of our partners' work on a range of water management issues and draw attention to the increasing maturity and influence of that work, as well as that in other fields. It is encouraging to see the high profile achieved by our partners' work at such global fora as WSSD, Kyoto and in Stockholm. It is also important that we continue to further facilitate 'research to policy' links in order that the outputs of the community-based and participatory work that we advocate and support assist decision makers translate the consensus of debate at such global fora into informed and effective ENRM policies at lower orders of scale.

In our last report to the Board in October 2001 we gave specific attention to such 'research to policy' links (Closing the Loop), and this year we give similar attention to Capacity Building as a second key area of Corporate Learning. Section 2 of this report contains varied examples of capacity building activities and outcomes, and in section 3 we pull those examples - together with others - into a framework that recognises 6 broadly defined categories of capacity building, namely (i) Individual Training, (ii) Team Training, (iii) Development of Research Toolkits, (iv) Networking and Communities of Practice, (v) Institutional Capacity Building and (vi) 'Learning by Doing'. Whilst the latter category is informal in nature, there is no doubt that the capacity of all the stakeholders involved in the development research process (including IDRC staff) is built, be it the capacity of project beneficiaries to better manage their natural resources, the capacity of local or national institutions to support that process, the capacity of researchers and development workers to better serve their constituencies or the capacity of decision makers to produce evidence-based and enabling policies. It is perhaps through such 'learning by doing' that the greatest breadth and depth of research and development capacity building occurs and where the most lasting impact will be evident.

In looking to the future, the current foci and strengths of the work that we support coupled with the community-based and participatory framework within which it is executed will provide a solid base on which to selectively build and evolve. We do not anticipate dramatic shifts in foci, but do anticipate structurally merging our three regionally based natural resource management program initiatives into a single globally mandated PI to further enhance their scope and influence. Whilst the detailed foci of future support within the Program Area as a whole will only emerge following the current round of evaluations and regional consultations, we do plan to give increased emphasis to research that seeks local water management solutions to global water concerns. We are exploring the opportunities for linking such water management research to the challenges faced by water managers and communities alike of coping with existing climatic variability and adapting to the predicted increase in that variability. This is of especial importance in those regions already suffering from water shortages and stress.

Annual Report

Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM)

Program Area

1. Program Area Overview

Managing and using natural resources equitably, productively and sustainably to support the livelihoods of communities in the developing world is the fundamental key to poverty reduction, greater food security and improved human health, now and for the future. This was reinforced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002 where many of IDRC's activities and partners attained a high profile. Of special note in Johannesburg were the pioneering role that IDRC is playing in advocating an ecosystems approach to human health, our work on the sustainable use of biodiversity (profiled through the Equator Initiative) and our work of internationalizing the Canadian Model Forest approach. These successes, together with others, were described at a lunch-time presentation to the Board in October 2002.

At WSSD, 'Water and Sanitation', 'Energy', 'Health and the Environment', 'Agriculture' and 'Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management' (WEHAB) emerged as a development framework for action. They are well reflected in the focal points of research support that IDRC provides through its six Program Initiatives (PIs) in the ENRM Program Area. These are centred around four principal themes, namely:

- Managing Natural Resources in Asia (CBNRM), in Latin America and the Caribbean (Minga), and in Africa and the Middle East (PLaW)
- An Ecosystems Approach to Human Health (EcoHealth),
- Urban Agriculture or "Cities Feeding People" (CFP).
- The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (SUB),

In addition to these Program Initiatives, the Program Area incorporates two secretariats (The International Model Forest Network Secretariat and the Environment Management Secretariat) and two Corporate Projects (Mining Policy Research Initiative and EcoPlata). The human and financial resources available to these activities, together with their rationale, goals and objectives are given in Annexes A to J. A summary of these resources is given in Table 1.

Whilst these initiatives display a range of specific ENRM entry points and thematic foci, all support research and capacity building activities that are underpinned by a common conceptual framework. This framework centres around participatory research approaches that ensures that people are put at the center of development and has a strong output focus that centres around livelihoods, empowerment and enhanced adaptive capacity for poor and marginalised communities. In addition to these specific initiatives, more flexible funds are also available through 'Regional Activity Funds' (RAF). Although not covered in any depth in this report, the use of these funds can be effective in exploring regionally important and novel areas of development research which may later become mainstreamed within the work that PIs support. For example, in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), RAF funds are currently being used for an across PI (SUB, PLaW, EcoHealth) exploration in Capacity Building in participatory research approaches.

The recognition of improved water management that emerged at WSSD as a major entry point for health, poverty and food security related research and development was further emphasized at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in March of this year where again, much of the work that

Table 1: The ENRM Program Area, 2003-2004				
Unit	Geographic Focus	Current Funding Period	FTEs (Program Staff Only)	Annual IDRC Budget, 2003-04 *
Program Initiatives				
CBNRM	Asia	2000-05	4.1	\$3,8 m
Minga	LAC	2000-05	4.05	\$3,3 m
PLaW	Africa and the Middle East	2000-05	5.0	\$3,4 m
EcoHealth	Global	2000-05	4.9	\$4,2 m
CFP	Global	2000-05	3.9	\$2,2 m
SUB	Global	2000-05	4.9	\$3,7 m
Secretariats				
IMFNS	Global	2002-04	4	\$0,867 m
EMS	LAC	2002-04	2	\$0,78 m
Corporate Projects				
MPRI	LAC	2003-05	2	\$0,526 m
EcoPlata	LAC	2002-05	1	\$0.375 m
* Budget figures for Program Initiatives refer to IDRC funding only; in the case of Secretariats and Corporate Projects, this includes IDRC and other donor funding.				

IDRC is supporting was successfully profiled. At the time of writing this report, IDRC is also preparing for its participation in the Stockholm Water Week in August and at the Banff Summit on “Mountains as Water Towers” in November of this year. In this UN *International Year of Fresh Water*, we have deliberately highlighted examples of the impact of the work by our partners on a range of issues associated with water, both in rural and urban environments and across all regions. Examples of such work include our water demand management work in MENA and in Asia, our emerging work on market linked micro-irrigation schemes in sub Saharan Africa, our multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the issues of water rights, trans-boundary water management and legal reform in Latin America and Asia and waste water re-use in MENA. In addition, the relationship between water management and human health is also explored in several EcoHealth projects in the context of domestic water consumption and use, polluted water sources and fisheries and vector borne diseases.

During the reporting period, we have continued to see evidence of the relevance, increasing maturity and influence of the work of our partners, not only in the field of water management, but in many other fields of research. This is reflected in several ways and examples are provided in this report of:

- the prominent advocacy roles that our partners are playing in regional and global fora,
- the scaling up and out from successful site-based projects,
- the key roles played by partners in a diverse array of regional and global networks,

- the development of knowledge pyramids and works of synthesis such as the IDRC *In Focus* series,
- the institutionalization of many of the research approaches that we advocate,
- the production of a range of publications and policy briefs, and
- the emergence of some of our partners as recognised ‘centres of excellence’ in given fields of ENRM.

The relevance of the work we support is further evident in the substantial co-funding (CAD\$ 3.8 million) and parallel funding (CAD\$ 12 million) we have appropriated during the 2002-03 period from a broad array of donors who support our work in all regions where IDRC is active. This is also due to the excellent support of our Partnership and Business Development Division (PBDD).

Such evidence of influence of our partners is not only encouraging, but also imperative if the work that we support is to assist decision makers translate and incorporate the outcomes of debates at such global fora as WSSD and Kyoto into informed and effective ENRM policies at lower orders of regional, national and district level scales. We continue to give high priority to facilitating our partners in enhancing the policy related impact of their work. This aspect of ‘closing the loop’ was discussed in our 2001 report to the Board, and is expanded upon in the context of capacity building in this report. Capacity Building, a key component of our Corporate Assessment Framework (CAF), is an IDRC hallmark and remains an integral part of almost everything that we do. In this report, we have presented examples of the many different types of capacity building that we support and engage in, both illustrating achievements in Section 2 as well as a broader based summary in Section 3 which is specifically devoted to this component of our CAF this year.

2. Review of Current Activities and Achievements

2.1 Program Initiatives

2.1.1 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Asia (CBNRM)

Since its inception, the Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) PI has focussed on the poorest regions of rural Asia, and particularly on those countries undergoing post-conflict and market economic transitions. As a result, the PI has given capacity building a high priority for often weak research institutions, and has persisted with long-term partnerships and site-based, interdisciplinary team learning to achieve lasting impact.

As a central component of capacity building, CBNRM researchers have adopted and adapted a broad variety of participatory (action) research methods, effectively engaging local farmers (e.g., China, India, Bhutan), herders (e.g., Mongolia), fishers (e.g., the Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam), government officials and extensionists in learning new ways to assess, manage and monitor natural resources for local benefit and sustainability. These successful examples, as they become recognized through our partners’ dissemination efforts, are having a powerful catalysing effect on broader social change and rural development, in very diverse and dynamic socio-economic contexts. They are leading to new ways of thinking and acting. For example, the Asian Regional Directors (RD) report of October 2002 referred to the impact IDRC supported CBNRM research in Bhutan has had on Government research policy, and recently two IDRC Program Officers received awards of high distinction from the Minister for Nature and Environment for their effort in introducing the CBNRM approach to Mongolia and the tangible outcomes it has achieved (see Box 1).

In the recent period, one of the PI's priorities has been to support effective national and regional networks/networking. Such networking includes a range of activities, namely the design and execution of training for members (and sometimes non-members), the translation and adaptation of international social science concepts, the management of small research grant programs, the sharing of research methods, tools and case study results, and raising the policy profile and influence of research results. Active networks now exist in China, Cambodia and the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, as well as among partners focussing on coastal resources (the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia). A new network is getting underway in Vietnam. One region-wide research network focusses particularly on the integration of Social and Gender Analysis in ENRM research, and engages researchers from many CBNRM and SUB projects. Based on the effectiveness of their CBNRM fieldwork and their acquired research skills, we now see our partners playing key roles in national and regional networks in many parts of Asia, supported by IDRC as well as other donors. Over the next 2 - 5 years, we will work towards the emergence of half a dozen of our partners as full-fledged national or regional "Centres of Excellence" in CBNRM; prioritizing strategic countries such as China, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Box 1 -- Towards pasture co-management in Mongolia: A case study of capacity building

Livestock are the key livelihood source in Mongolia, but herders are facing very serious pasture degradation problems as a result of overgrazing. This has been caused by decentralization induced failures in community and formal institutions that control grazing and herd movement. Addressing these problems not only requires dealing with the biophysical and social dynamics of natural resource management, but also needs to respond to an unfamiliar economic and political liberalization that the government has promoted since 1992. The CBNRM project team, housed in the Ministry of Nature and the Environment, is addressing this challenge by combining field research in three different agro-ecosystems, targeted training for herders, government staff and researchers, national and international networking, and direct involvement in national policy making. Two innovative and crucial capacity building activities have been the experimental formation of community herder groups locally and the establishment of pasture co-management teams over entire districts that involve herders, local government, and civil society members. The researchers' continuous, diversified capacity building efforts across scales of intervention have led to new ways of thinking and acting at various levels, opening alternatives for active new roles for herders and government officials alike.

Another area of evolution within CBNRM has been the emphasis in our mature projects over the past year on scaling up and out from successful site-based projects. Our partners (e.g. in Vietnam, China, Cambodia) implement experimental combinations of systematic linkages to neighbouring communities, extension services, and responsible government agencies using promotional efforts, training and dissemination tools which take advantage of policies promoting decentralization, but require research on stakeholder configurations, governance structures and processes and cross-scale linkages.

The work of our South Asian partners on water management and governance (Nepal and India), which was featured at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, March 2003, has captured substantial international attention and was presented at the Stockholm Water Week in August this year.¹ The PI is organizing a meeting of regional water experts this October to assist us in defining future research priorities in water management in Asia.

¹ Moench, M., Dixit, A., Janakarajan, S., Rathore, M., and Mudrakartha, S., 2003. *The Fluid Mosaic. Water Governance in the Context of Variability, Uncertainty and Change*.

2.1.2 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Latin America and the Caribbean (Minga)

Minga (a Quechua word for community-level collaboration) continues to support research that focusses on situations where resource degradation and increasing inequity affect rural livelihoods. Minga gives emphasis to (a) the Andean Highlands where the PI is placing increasing emphasis on water related issues, (b) situations where local and indigenous peoples are severely and negatively impacted by mining operations, and (c) the coastal zones of Central and South America.

In the first of these thematic focal points, work is centred in the Andean regions of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia and addresses water rights, trans-boundary water management issues and legal reform and policy making. Participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches to water management are being promoted in three projects: “Regulation of rights in the water law” (Bolivia), “Virtual Information Centre on Water in the Altiplano, Phase 2” (Peru), and “Collaborative Watershed Management of Natural Resources” (Ecuador). A third phase of the latter project, the largest and most advanced of these in Carchi, Ecuador, was funded in 2003 and focusses on scaling up of approaches and lessons learned in the El Angel watershed to two new watersheds in the larger hydrographic basin of the Mira River.

Andean partners from all three countries came together under the auspices of the Sustainable Andean Development Consortium (CONDESAN), a long-standing IDRC partner in the region, to share lessons from their work and to develop an ‘Andean Vision of Water’ for the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto. This vision stressed the need to respect and strengthen the identity of indigenous farming communities, to assure their rights and to conserve their natural resources, (<http://worldwaterforum.idrc.ca/>). Distributed in a Spanish and English brochure, the message was furthered through a video film, *La Sangre de la Pachamama* (The Blood of Mother Earth). Minga has provided further support to these partners for their leadership in the upcoming ‘International Year of Fresh Water Forum of the Americas’ to be held in Bolivia in October 2003. This meeting is co-hosted by the Bolivian Academy of Sciences, the Bolivian Chancery, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and sponsored by SDC, GTZ, UNESCO and IDRC. Minga will also provide support for their participation in the Banff Summit on ‘Mountains as Water Towers’ (November, 2003). A one-day seminar will be held in Ottawa, December 2, 2003, to share research highlights and future priorities.

In its second area of emphasis, Minga, together with MPRI (see Section 2.3.1), has recently embarked on a review and evaluation of twenty years of IDRC-supported research in mining. This six-month review will assist us in planning future support, and is anticipated to appear as one of IDRC’s ‘*In_Focus*’ series. One such recently completed project entitled “*Indigenous Perspectives on Consultation and Engagement by Mining Companies: Colombia and Guyana*” has not only greatly enhanced the capacity of local leaders and institutions to participate effectively in national debates (see Box 2), but has also provided input into an independent study commissioned by the World Bank Extractive Industries Review.

Also in our 2001 report, we referred to the importance Minga gives to competitive small grant mechanisms and to mainstreaming gender into team members' work. Both of these aspects were evaluated during 2002-03. The evaluation of Minga’s first round of small grants programmes recommended that Minga should (a) seek stronger convergence around state of the art knowledge amongst its small grants programmes by planning some joint activities, (b) should further strengthen programme committees and the administering organisations, (c) devolve

Box 2 -- Building indigenous capacity to engage with mining companies and governments in Colombia and Guyana.

Indigenous organizations in both countries have reported that the project has increased their awareness and understanding of their respective governments' efforts to cut back the constitutional and legislative rights and recognitions won by indigenous peoples over the years. In April 2002, Ms Jean LaRose, an indigenous leader in the Guyana team, was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize (often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for the Environment"), in part related to the work of the Centre-funded project, which provided information used by Ms LaRose and her colleagues to seek redress with the government and various international NGOs and aid agencies that deal with mining in Guyana. Research findings on the acute negative effects of mining related activities on women led to the organization of a national women's conference to discuss project findings and propose specific policies and actions to the Guyanese government.

responsibilities further as an approach to capacity building and (d) continue to promote evolution in the modality as a means to encourage further innovation and adoption of participatory approaches. The review of Minga's gender mainstreaming strategy, both in training and research, recognised the progress that the PI has made since 2000, particularly in capacity building, and pointed to ways to strengthen programming through more systematic review of proposals for gender analysis, and through greater devolution of monitoring and support to partners.

2.1.3 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Africa and the Middle East (PLaW)

As indicated in our previous report to the Board, People, Land and Water (PLaW) recognizes the extensive nature of marginal and water limited environments in Africa and the Middle East, and their fragile and risk prone nature. It is in such environments that some of the most vulnerable and impoverished communities live. Water and its successful management is often fundamental to their livelihoods. Within the context of a strong and broader experience of supporting community-based research in MENA's marginal environments, PLaW is increasingly supporting research that seeks to define and enable more productive, efficient, equitable and sustainable water management and use in such environments.

One such initiative, the Water Demand Management Forum (WDMF) has been a great success in the MENA region. An interim report was given in the RD's report to the Board in October 2002. WDMF was designed to involve relevant decision makers in promoting water demand management (WDM) as a tool for more efficient and equitable use of water in the region. They identified priority thematic areas for regional workshops on wastewater re-use (Morocco, March 2002), water valuation (Lebanon, June 2002), public-private partnerships (Jordan, October 2002) and decentralization and participatory irrigation management (Egypt, 2003). The four workshops engaged over 500 decision makers from 11 countries and donors from 25 different organizations. CIDA, UNDP-TCDC, GTZ, IFAD, USAID and the Ministries of Energy and Water in Lebanon and Water and Irrigation in Jordan provided added support to the Forum's activities.

WDMF's visibility was further enhanced during the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto through wide dissemination of results in a tri-lingual CD and brochure; the co-organization (with the World Bank) of the MENA Regional Day session on Institutional Reform, which included presentations of results from the different regional workshops; and an IDRC web-cast, which made the WDMF participation in Kyoto available to a global audience. Full details can be found at <http://www.idrc.ca/waterdemand/>. Decision makers and donor partners have requested IDRC

to continue leading the effort to mainstream WDM in water policies and decision making in MENA. As a result, the project was extended for one year to consolidate ongoing efforts and to design a new phase. As has been proven successful in the first phase, the second phase will also be built through a demand driven and consultative process with both regional stakeholders and donor partners as well as drawing on lessons learned in the first phase.

During 2002-03, as part of its wider portfolio, PLaW provided support to two new research initiatives associated with large development projects which centre around linking small-holders to expanding agricultural markets through cheap and robust water treadle-pumps, efficient low pressure micro-irrigation systems and the production of high value crops. In the first of these projects, we are supporting the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) who are providing leadership to a consortium of researchers, NGOs and farmer groups from Senegal, Mali, Niger and Burkino Faso who are participating in a large scale initiative called the African Market Garden (AMG) which is also funded by FAO, the World Bank, The International Program for Arid Lands (IPALAC) and ICRISAT. Developed from a pilot project and a winner of the prestigious World Bank “Development Marketplace” competition, this approach is now being scaled up to reach thousands of farmers in the four countries. IDRC’s support to this initiative will be used to evaluate the potential of introducing date palm to such AMG’s, not only for their nutritional and economic value, but also for their beneficial effect on the micro-climate required for vegetable production.

In the second project, in Zambia, PLaW is supporting a similar large scale micro-irrigation initiative, led by International Development Enterprise (IDE) and co-funded by CIDA, USAID, OPEC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Since the early 1980s, IDE has successfully developed its “Smallholder Water and Integrated Business Development” (SWIBD) approach in Asia where it has reached and impacted on the lives of over 2 million poor families. It is now extending this work to the low lying areas (*dambos*) of Zambia. This grant will allow researchers to document, validate and refine the SWIBD approach in Zambia and will support scoping studies for its potential further application in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

During the last three years, PLaW has been working closely with CBNRM in the development and testing of a specialized tool kit for ‘Participatory Development Communication’, also known as the “Isang Bagsak” project. The expression ‘Isang Bagsak’ comes from the Philippines and means ‘arriving at a consensus, an agreement’. The fact that it refers to communication as a participatory process made it an ideal working title for this initiative! The objective of this work was to develop training approaches and tools and to document practical experience in helping NRM research teams to incorporate the use of Participatory Development Communication (PDC) concepts and tools into their research for development. This was done in a proactive mode, with an IDRC Program Officer also acting as the principal resource person. It tested a web-aided approach to engage participating teams in simultaneous application and discussion of tools in their respective efforts in Vietnam, Cambodia and Uganda. Not only have the participating teams found this tool kit of great value, but it is also receiving much wider recognition both regionally and internationally (see Box 3).

2.1.4 Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (EcoHealth)

EcoHealth continues to support research that explores the links between how ecosystems are managed and the health of communities living in those ecosystems. Although still pursuing new partnerships, increasingly the PI is working with well established ecohealth researchers, often funding phase 2 and 3 projects. Not only is ecohealth gaining recognition as a valid approach to

Box 3 – ‘Participatory Development Communication’ (PDC) Tool kit is to be more widely used in Asia and Africa.

In a meeting of Asian and African partners and stakeholders in PDC, held in Uganda in December 2002, the College of Development Communication at the University of the Philippines and the Southern Africa Cooperation Centre for Development Communication announced their decision to apply PDC approaches on wider scale within Asia and Africa respectively. Also during the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer from the UNESCO's Division of Information and Communication confirmed his institution's support for PDC approaches and a desire to work further with IDRC on their development and dissemination. Since that meeting, a formal agreement has been signed between IDRC and UNESCO to work towards this goal. Furthermore, at a Round Table meeting of the Comité Permanent Inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) in Burkina Faso in May 2002, the Executive Secretary of CILSS confirmed that PDC aided participatory approaches will become an integral component of all programs for combatting desertification in the region.

providing healthier environments and improved livelihoods, but increasingly this recognition is being backed by the solid evidence produced by the projects we support. Recently the PI produced “Health, An Ecosystem Approach” - a case study series of twelve 4-page brochures, each describing a project, its results and major conclusions and its policy relevance (see Box 4).

During the reporting period, the PI put emphasis on the development of an EcoHealth Global Community of Practice (EcoCOP) that will serve to strengthen and institutionalize the approach worldwide. The high profile of the PI at WSSD has already been reported to the Board in October 2002. This has been further enhanced by the International Forum on Ecosystems Approaches to Human Health held in Montreal, May 18-23, 2003. The Forum, initiated by IDRC in cooperation with national and international partners, brought together over 350 participants, researchers, practitioners, government representatives and graduate students from 42 countries to explore the wide-ranging experiences gained through working with the ecosystem approaches to human health. During the Forum over 180 presentations (69 highlighting results from 36 projects funded by IDRC) from Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean were presented and discussed. These discussions were structured around four themes ‘Definition and Conceptualization’, ‘Successes and Challenges’, ‘Links from Research to Policy Formulation’ and ‘Institutionalization.’

Preceding the Forum, the PI had also organised an extensive consultation process with 10 Canadian partners (through round table discussion), 12 donors, and 69 developing country researchers (through electronic forums in Africa, Asia and Latin America) on how to consolidate a global community of practice. This consultative process debated and clarified key elements of

Box 4 -- Case study results provide solid evidence of the value of an Ecosystem Approach to Human Health.

A series of 12 case study reports, designed to inform decision makers. Case studies cover:

- From Forests to Fields in Cote d'Ivoire
- Malaria and Agriculture in Kenya
- Mercury Contamination in the Amazon
- Preventing Pesticide Poisonings in Ecuador
- Tracking Health and Well-being in Goa's Mining Belt
- Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Ethiopia
- A Cleaner City and Better Health in Kathmandu
- Taking Control of Air Pollution in Mexico City
- Fighting Malaria without DDT (in Mexico)
- Housing and Human Capital in Cuba
- Health, Environment, and Indigenous Culture (in Chile)
- Mining, Contamination, and Health in Ecuador

Studies are published in French, Spanish and English. See www.idrc.ca/ecohhealth.

the ecohealth approach and identified strategies that would need to be in place for a successful EcoCOP. The findings were summarized in a detailed report and were further discussed in two meetings during the Forum. The Forum not only attracted high level representation from both Canadian and international dignitaries, but was also widely covered in the local and international media. In achieving its objectives, the Forum marked a definitive step towards the global mainstreaming of ecosystem approaches to human health (see <http://www.idrc.ca/forum2003> for full details). During the Forum, the PI also launched a new *In Focus* Book entitled “Health: An Ecosystem Approach” published in French, English and Spanish (see Box 5).

The Forum, together with partner consultations in Canada, Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean on supporting the emerging ecohealth community of practice, has set the stage for planning that will serve to strengthen and institutionalize the approach worldwide. The EcoCOP will usher in a new era of programming that will form the basis of future work in this PI.

2.1.5 Cities Feeding People (CFP)

The Cities Feeding People PI (CFP) continues to focus its programming on Urban Agriculture (UA) in the MENA and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) regions, but at the same time is dedicating efforts to ‘Close the Loop’ on its previous successful work in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. Those lessons learned and policy impacts are serving as a foundation for its current work in Africa and the Middle East. This geographic evolution has fostered greater inter-regional cooperation among its partners through global and regional networks such as the Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF - see Box 6).

Another example of inter-regional collaboration centers around nine policy briefs on UA which have been validated by, and widely distributed amongst municipal governments throughout the LAC region. These briefs are being used as material for information sharing, discussion and revision with the projects the PI is supporting in Africa and the Middle East. This series of briefs is available on the website of the Urban Management Programme (www.pgualc.org) and IDRC (www.idrc.ca). Substantial collaboration is also taking place between LAC and SSA partners in the preparation for a large training course on urban agriculture for Anglophone Africa which is planned for

Box 5 -- New *In Focus* Book: *HEALTH; An Ecosystem Approach*

This book explores IDRC’s experience in developing EcoHealth. In its first paragraph the author, Jean Lebel, poses the question “Can people remain healthy in a world that is sick” and goes on to describe the Ecosystems approach that not only invites broad stakeholder participation, but also offers appropriate solutions that involve decision makers and their communities. The book examines issues involved in EcoHealth, describes various paths of research, assesses successes and lessons learned and offers recommendations for future work. More details about this book can be found at www.idrc.ca/ecohealth.

Box 6 -- *Capacity building with regional focal institutions of RUAF*

RUAF is the global information sharing network of the Support Group on Urban Agriculture (SGUA). IDRC is the lead agency coordinating SGUA. RUAF is comprised of seven regional institutional focal points located in Peru, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Senegal, Ghana, India and China. Following a mid-term evaluation of this network, two back-to-back training workshops were held in South Africa for the member institutions on Gender Mainstreaming (3 days) and Outcome Mapping (5 days). Representatives from Urban Harvest, the CGIAR system-wide initiative on urban and peri-urban agriculture, were also invited to promote greater interaction between these two networks.

March 2004 in Nairobi. Following evaluations of previous training courses, specific provisions are being made for improved incorporation of gender analyses into all the topic modules of this course (see Box 7).

The CFP PI has also witnessed, and promoted, the development of the wastewater re-use research area through projects, publications and the signing of the Hyderabad Declaration on Wastewater Use. Through strong CFP partners in the MENA region, wastewater use has been adopted and promoted by national level authorities. In Jordan for example, based on CFP supported work, three national Ministries have embarked on a program of promoting the treatment and use of domestic wastewater and have contracted CFP's partner to radically upscale household treatment and reuse systems. In 2004, this research area will continue to develop as official acceptance of wastewater use expands and the links between poverty reduction, urban food security and water recycling are recognized.

Box 7 -- Innovative training for City Teams in Africa

A three-week training course will be offered in March 2004 in Nairobi on concepts and methods for research on and management of urban agriculture. The course is offered by CFP together with the Urban Harvest Programme of the CGIAR, the Urban Management Program of HABITAT, the Municipal Development Partnership of Zimbabwe, The Ministry of Planning (Kenya), RUAF and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). The course will be centred around seven learning modules, namely (i) *UA, History and Concepts*, (ii) *Health Impacts of UA*, (iii) *UA Crop Production Systems*, (iv) *UA Animal Husbandry*, (v) *Solid Waste Management*, (vi) *Waste Water Re-Use in UA* and (vii) *Integration of UA into Urban Planning*. "3-member City Teams" from up to seven cities will participate. These teams will comprise a researcher and representatives from an NGO and the municipality. Participating City Teams will be required to present a research or action proposal. The course will be structured to encourage interaction between city teams and to help team members further develop their proposals. At the end of the course high quality proposals will be considered for seed funding by IDRC. (See also www.ruaf.org.)

In November 2002, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and IDRC hosted an experts meeting on wastewater reuse where the 'Hyderabad Declaration' was signed. The declaration recognized wastewater as a resource of increasing global importance which, with proper management, contributes significantly to sustaining livelihoods, food security and the quality of the environment. It also stressed that in the absence of proper management, wastewater use can pose serious health and environmental risks. The Declaration concluded by urging policy-makers and authorities to: "*Safeguard and strengthen livelihoods and food security, mitigate health and environmental risks and conserve water resources by confronting the realities of wastewater use in agriculture through the adoption of appropriate policies and the commitment of financial resources for policy implementation*". This Declaration is considered a major achievement in the field of wastewater management. Amongst the signatories were 46 representatives from 10 agencies, including the WHO, UNDP, IWMI and IDRC.

2.1.6 The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (SUB)

The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity PI (SUB) supports research that addresses needs laid out in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and some of the gaps in the CBD workplan itself. That has meant concentrating on the needs and concerns of indigenous and local communities with a specific focus on *plant genetic resources for food security, nutrition and health*. As a result, research supported has largely focussed on Agrobiodiversity and Medicinal Plants.

In the thematic area of Agrobiodiversity, the PI has supported considerable research on Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB). Increasingly, PPB is being seen as an effective research approach that brings plant breeders and farmers together to produce varieties that not only give higher yields, but also maintains the genetic variation that is key to the continued evolution and adaptation of plant genotypes. Much of this experience has recently been published in the *In_Focus* series in a book entitled “Seeds that give: participatory plant breeding”, currently published in English, French and Spanish, and shortly to appear in Arabic and Mandarin. To add value to this achievement, SUB has funded a follow-up activity this year to make resources available to researchers to use these *In_Focus* products to “close the loop” in their own constituencies (see Box 8).

It is clear from such PPB work that farmers want access to diversity and will make use of both informal and market-based seed supply mechanisms to acquire the diversity they need. To deepen analysis of the factors that affect seed flow at the local level, SUB is developing research projects with multi-disciplinary teams in CG Centres and various national NGOs, especially in Africa and LAC. A good example of such work is our project with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), “*Strengthening Seeds Systems for Food Security in Afghanistan*” which was referred to in the RD report for Asia in 2002. Other on-going work includes a review by Dr Louise Sperling of 20 to 30 classic seed aid interventions in post-disaster situations in

Africa to identify and synthesize “best practice”. Although this work is still ongoing it is already having an impact. As a result of an FAO-sponsored Experts Consultation on “Effective Seed Relief Activities” held in Rome in May 2003, FAO is rethinking their post-conflict seed aid strategy due to interventions of the review author and project partners.

In the work supported on medicinal plants, the PI is consolidating interaction amongst researchers in Africa and Asia. By investing in established research networks such as Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Program in Asia (MAPPA) (see RD’s Report for Asia 2002) and creating new networking processes for linking research on medicinal plants in Africa, the PI will consolidate and broaden the relationships needed to build research capacity and ensure sharing of research methods and results. The new initiative on ‘Medicinal Plant Networking in East Africa’ builds on the momentum created by the African Union Summit Declaration of 2001 for a Decade of Celebration of African Traditional Medicine (see our Report to the Board in 2001) and seeks to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to share and consolidate information and data on their respective activities, and harmonize their approaches and methodologies. Partners will work together to develop collaborative projects to address common challenges and priority issues relating to medicinal plants use and conservation.

In October of this year, the PI is co-sponsoring, together with several Canadian institutions, the World Bank and IUCN, an International Symposium on ‘*Biodiversity and Health: Focussing Research to Policy*’ in Ottawa with the purpose of highlighting the importance of medicines

Box 8 -- New *In_Focus* Book. *Seeds that give: participatory plant breeding*

“Today’s agriculture is like a huge inverted pyramid; globally it rests on a precariously narrow base. Less than 3% of the 250,000 plant varieties available to agriculture are in use today.” With this warning, the author Ronnie Vernooy describes the issues at stake and how PPB can address some of those issues, illustrated by six case studies from around the world. Drawing lessons learned from 10 years of experience, the author distills out six key recommendations and then looks ahead to the year 2012 and speculates how the world would look if these recommendations had been widely implemented. Read and find out! This book serves as the focal point for an IDRC thematic website on PPB (www.idrc.ca/seeds) which provides many more case studies and histories.

from biological sources as applied by traditional knowledge. The symposium will bring together many of our partners from the south and north and will include representatives from academic and research institutes, pharmaceutical companies, governments and indigenous communities. This meeting will further enhance the profile of the work that SUB is supporting, a profile that is becoming increasingly visible following the great success of the Equator Initiative at WSSD. Full details of this important meeting can be found at www.tc-biodiversity.org. Another indication of the value and impact of the work that SUB is supporting on medicinal plants is reflected in the fact that SUB staff were asked in July of this year to contribute to the revision of the 1993 WHO/IUCN/WWF guidelines on the conservation of medicinal plants.

In our report of 2001, we discussed the establishment of the Genetic Policy Research Initiative (GRPI) and progress reports were provided by the RD's of Asia and Africa in their reports last year. It is now 'up and running' and moving ahead with funding for 4 years from DGIS, IDRC, GTZ/BMZ, Rockefeller and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). A full time project coordinator has been hired, based at the IPGRI offices in Nairobi. As well, an IDRC/IPGRI Executive Advisory Committee has been put in place to guide this process while a Steering Committee is being developed. Over the past year the Southern Country Demand Survey has been implemented in Nepal, Zambia, Peru and Ethiopia involving site visits by IPGRI/IDRC staff and consultants to help establish multi-stakeholder bodies that will become the Genetic Resources National Task Forces (TFs). As envisioned in the earlier Crucible process, these TFs are made up of civil society, government and private sector representatives working on genetic resource policy. Surveys are collecting information on the research demand as identified and prioritized by these groups.

2.2 Secretariats

2.2.1 International Model Forest Network (IMFN)

The International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS) has been housed at IDRC since 1995 under sponsorship of IDRC, DFAIT, CIDA, and NRCan/CFS. It works with country and institutional partners to establish and support the development of model forests, which are watershed-scale areas within which a fully inclusive partnership of stakeholders work to define Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in locally relevant terms, and develop a strategy and operational plan for achieving it. Beginning with three sites in 1995, the network now includes 20 sites plus 11 in Canada, in 14 countries, now totalling a land-base larger than that of the UK (over 25 million ha). Country profiles and descriptions of their model forests can be found at www.imfn.net. In addition, IMFNS has current expressions of interest or specific proposals for new model forests from Sweden, India, Vietnam, Peru, Panama, Cuba, and Guyana.

The work of IMFNS, which received a high profile at WSSD where Canada announced renewal of the funding and mandate of the IMFNS, continues to attract attention and support as a practical and stakeholder driven process of SFM. In our report of 2001, we mentioned plans to establish regional nodes of IMFNS in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia (see also the RD's reports of last year for those two regions). The Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean is now established in Santiago Chile, as of October 2002, and receives direct core support from CIDA at CAD \$500K per year, in addition to financial and technical support from country members and FAO, CUSO, and UNDP who hosts the Centre. Work is well advanced on establishment of a regional centre for Asia where FAO is preparing a proposal to host a regional model forest centre in Bangkok. IMFNS has received confirmed intentions of support and participation in this venture from CIFOR (Centre for International Forestry Research),

RECOFTC (Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific), ICRAF (The World Agroforestry Centre), and the UNDP/EU Small Grants Programme. Work in Africa is anticipated to get underway soon in Cameroon where IMFNS is working closely with CIFOR with added support from FAO and CIDA, both of whom have a strong interest in the development of model forests in Central Africa.

In 2002 the IMFNS Interim Steering Committee became a Board of Directors and included its first non-Canadian member, the Chairman of the Regional Model Forest Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean. Asia will be similarly represented with the launch of a regional centre for that area. Additionally, a new Executive Director, Mr Peter Besseau, was appointed in April 2003, upon the retirement of Fred Johnson after many years of invaluable service.

In the coming 18 months IMFNS will give added attention to the evaluation of case studies and will document successes and lessons learned in order to measure and report on impacts. Documentation will focus on technical aspects of sustainable forest management, as well as many cases of success in areas such as partnership development, conflict mitigation, livelihood enhancement, improved resource management and policy linkages.

2.2.2 Environment Management Secretariat (EMS)

During the reporting period, the Environment Management Secretariat (EMS) has built on the strengths it has developed on managing small grant mechanisms to address urban resource management concerns, and has incorporated useful recommendations from a recent external evaluation with regard to streamlining administrative procedures whilst retaining the high quality of the program as a whole. The potential value of such small grants was re-emphasized in April 2003 when, during the celebration of the Brazilian World Health Day, the President of Brazil presented the Mayor of Sao Bernardo do Campo with the WHO “Waste and Citizenship” award; a remarkable outcome from a prior SGM that addressed “Integrated Management of Urban Solid Waste”.

In LAC, privatization of water services in some cities, coupled with significant competition for this resource at the rural - urban interface, has led to serious conflicts between civil society, public institutes and the private sector. In many cases this has led to the greater exclusion of vulnerable sectors of the population. In the light of this trend, in December 2002, EMS announced a new small grants call to address the need for multi-stakeholder mechanisms and technologies for the sustainable use of fresh water. Key aspects of this activity will include (i) local seminars with all stakeholders to assess the outcomes of each study, (ii) identification of key indicators and practices to institutionalize multi-stakeholder partnerships, and (iii) a final workshop to produce a manual with guidelines for municipalities.

In another important development, EMS launched the ‘Integrated Environmental Management System’ (SIGA in Spanish) at the International Congress of Cities (URBIS 2003) in Sao Paulo in July of this year. Initially developed as part of a project funded in Uruguay in a previous small grants call, SIGA is a Geographic Information Systems-based instrument for environmental planning and management, focussed on prevention and reduction of natural and man-made environmental risks in vulnerable areas. The instrument, together with a training manual has been positively evaluated by both municipalities, technicians and NGOs, as well as institutions such as UNESCO and IADB. Indeed it is included as an integral part of the IADB - FEMICA (Federation of Central American Municipalities) training project for Central America on the management of environmental risks in Central American Cities.

2.3 Corporate Projects

2.3.1 Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI)

In our report of 2001 and in the RD's report for LAC to the Board last year, we highlighted the important role that the Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI) had played as the coordinator of the regional Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project. Building on the results of this regional consultation, MPRI is now centering its research and networking support on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) largely in the Andean countries and Brazil.

In order to develop a unified and coordinated vision for ASM amongst key stakeholders, MPRI co-hosted a further regional consultation on ASM with UNESCO and the CYTED Network (*Spanish for Science and Technology for Development.*) in Peru in April 2002. The consultation was attended by small-scale miners, government representatives, academics and development institutes from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Two key outputs were (i) a 10-year vision for the transformation of ASM into a sustainable activity and (ii) a framework of action within which UNESCO, the CYTED Network and MPRI will reduce duplication and ensure greater synergy and cooperation.

Based on these outputs, the thematic scope of the work supported by MPRI is focussed on research that will address two topics, namely (a) the organizational and institutional strengthening of ASM organizations and (b) the formalization of ASM. Capacity building is a key aspect of this work focussing on the use of gender and social analyses in the context of a livelihoods approach, supported by conflict management mechanisms. In addition, special attention is given to the development of a strong communications platform to ensure that research outputs are incorporated in local participatory planning and decision making processes. Following a call for proposals last year, work is already underway on the first topic above in Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, and it is anticipated that a call for proposals on the second topic will be made in early 2004.

To inform, support and facilitate this work and that of key collaborators, MPRI has developed a web site (www.iipm-mpri.org) and Red MPE (small-scale mining network) which is an informal web space (www.iipm-mpri.org/mpe) for discussions of issues, exchange of information and even a platform for voluntary and solidarity action. It engages small-scale miners, government officials, international donors, mining corporation employees and independent consultants.

2.3.2 EcoPlata 3: The Health of the Rio

Originally conceived as a uni-disciplinary (marine sciences) program for the fluvio-marine ecosystem of the Rio de la Plata, this corporate project has evolved into a broader based initiative which now seeks to promote an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach, an approach that is beginning to bear fruit both nationally and regionally. For example, the Uruguayan Government has made a dedicated effort towards the creation and adoption of a National Policy for Coastal Management that incorporates key principles of ICZM promoted and demonstrated in pilot projects by EcoPlata. In addition, the new Brazilian Government has requested EcoPlata to present ICZM at the next meeting of the LAC Ministers of the Environment to be held in Brazil on November 2003. At a regional level EcoPlata is also gaining increased recognition. Interest has been expressed by a Brazilian (Fundacao Universitaria de Rio Grande, FURG) and an Argentinian (Universidad de Buenos Aires, UBA)

institution in participating in a joint regional ICZM initiative. This opens an important point of entry for the development of a common environmental protection and management strategy across the borders of the three countries.

In addition to the institutional recognition of the value of ICZM, a regional capacity building initiative is underway. Support to the concept of ICZM, given both by IDRC through EcoPlata and through collaboration with Canadian institutions, has led to the development of a regional training program on ICZM at the Uruguayan University of the Republic with technical support provided by Dalhousie University in Canada. CIDA has expressed interest in this initiative and a CAD \$ 4 million project has been submitted for their consideration.

Currently, given the increasing success of this corporate project, the regional office for LACRO is exploring the possibility of devolving EcoPlata to the regional office of UNESCO in Montevideo. UNESCO is a member of the EcoPlata Steering Committee and is thus familiar and supportive of its agenda.

3. Corporate Learning - Capacity Building

Given the intensive interactive relationship that IDRC establishes with its research partners throughout the life cycle of projects, capacity building is inherent in almost all that we do, whether it is through formal training mechanisms or through less formal 'learning whilst doing' approaches. Capacity building will also result (although perhaps less easy to document) from the broad range of information dissemination and communication activities that we engage in through networks, publications, CDs, videos, books and policy briefs.

Given the pervasive nature of capacity building in our work, there is a broad range of beneficiaries including local communities themselves, individual researchers and research teams, research and development institutions, and local and national decision-makers - in other words, all those stakeholders in the research to development continuum. The breadth and depth of IDRC's commitment to Capacity Building is reflected in how we describe 'good performance' in this area in our Corporate Assessment Framework (see VP's covering memo to this report). Throughout this report, we have highlighted selected capacity building initiatives, and in this section will refer to them, along with other examples, in the context of the contrasting approaches that we use. The examples provided here can only be illustrative of the many capacity building activities we support and engage in.

Individual Training. Many of our PIs continue to support individual training through a range of approaches. For example, Ecohealth supports capacity building of professional researchers and practitioners affiliated with governmental and non-governmental institutions through a one-week summer course at the Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica of Mexico (2002 and 2003). With Ecohealth research partners as trainers, the course brings together 20-25 researchers, not necessarily funded by IDRC, to discuss how to frame their research within an Ecohealth approach. A similar activity is planned for West Africa in the Fall 2003 with the University of Benin. Minga is providing support for up to 35 Masters Thesis grants in Bolivia (coordinated by Programa de Investigacion Estrategica en Bolivia), Peru (coordinated by Seminario Permanente de Informacion Agraria) and Ecuador (coordinated by EcoCiencia) for research on Gender and Natural Resource Management. PLaW is providing similar support for capacity building in gender analysis through a small grant mechanism coordinated by the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). Each year, CFP

manages the Agropolis Field Research Awards in urban agriculture. This year 12 awards were given to graduates and postgraduate students from Latin America and sub Saharan Africa.

Team Training. Such training is often effectively aligned with proposal development and will have a broadly defined thematic focus. An example for ‘urban agriculture’ training is given in Box 7. This is also an approach that has been used with great success by Ecohealth through the mechanism of Proposal Development Workshops for individual projects as well as for multi-country team training in MENA, West Africa and Central America and the Caribbean. PLaW, through support to the Organization for Social Science Research in East and Southern Africa (OSSREA) in Ethiopia is aiming to build capacity of NRM research teams in Africa and the Middle East in Social and Gender Analyses. Team training can also be focussed on a specific research tool. Minga, for example, together with IDRC’s Evaluation Unit has supported training in Outcome Mapping with a range of project teams in Latin America through our collaborative project with CIDA in Honduras and through CONDESAN, and we have already referred earlier in the text to the joint PLaW / CBNRM supported team training in Participatory Development Communication and the SUB supported training in social science methods to our partners in Afghanistan.

Research Tool kits. Over the years, IDRC has supported the development of a range of research tool kits, and we continue to do so. In July of this year, SUB’s partners were part of a group that evaluated a new on-line version of “Writing for Change” and the “SUB Gender Guidelines” are being incorporated by the Community Conservation Coalition into a CD-based resource kit to provide easy access and guidance on innovative social science tools. Minga has supported work by Carleton University in Ottawa on the development of a tool kit of social sciences methods entitled “The Stakeholder / Social Information System (SIS)”. During 2002-03 SIS has been tested at workshops of Minga’s Conflict and Collaboration Small Grants Program and with the CIDA-IDRC Project in Honduras, as well as with partners from CBNRM in Asia and PLaW in East Africa. The World Bank Institute, UNDP and World Neighbours have supported further SIS-workshops in West Africa and Indonesia. The tool kit is available on-line (www.Carleton.ca/~jchevali/STAKEH.html) and is being translated into Spanish by the University for Peace in Costa Rica. It will be officially launched in the fall of 2003.

Networking and Communities of Practice. We support many networks globally which have a range of purposes around which communities of practice are formed. Regardless of the specific focus of the network, the exchange of information on research issues, approaches, outputs and lessons learned within a community of practice almost inevitably results in capacity building of its members. In this report, we have referred to several examples of the broad array of networks that are currently supported by the Program Area. Examples include those supported by CBNRM in Asia (where some specifically focus on training), the Water Demand Management Network supported by PLaW in MENA, the emerging global EcoCOP led by Ecohealth, the medicinal plant networks in Asia and Africa supported by SUB, the RUAF network of CFP, the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining network (RedMPE) created by MPRI and the work of the IMFN Secretariat.

Institutional Capacity Building. As indicated in previous paragraphs, our capacity building efforts almost always centre around the introduction and testing of innovative development research methods, approaches and tools, and this is also true in the case of institutional capacity building of formal research and development institutions - our partners. Evidence for such capacity building becomes apparent when the use of innovative research approaches become

‘institutionalized’ within policies and procedures. In this report, there are several examples of such capacity building, for example:

- our PLaW supported WDM work - building the capacity of water management related Ministries in MENA,
- our SUB supported GRPI initiative - building national capacity to formulate genetic resource management policies,
- our Cities Feeding People initiative to build the capacity of RUAF regional focal institutes in gender analyses and outcome mapping, and
- our EMS supported training of municipalities in Latin America and the Caribbean in environmental planning and management through the use of SIGA.

However as also indicated in Section 1 of this report, “empowerment and enhanced adaptive capacity of communities” are key components of the common conceptual framework that underpins all of our work. Thus during the lifespan of many of the projects that we support, the deliberate integration of local communities and institutions as stakeholders in the research and development process often has significant impacts on building their institutional capacity for better natural resource management. This ‘learning by doing’ institutional capacity building is discussed further below.

Learning by doing. There is an intense process of interaction between our program officers and our partners throughout the life cycle of project development, execution, monitoring and evaluation, analyses and reporting and dissemination (or closing the loop). Whilst informal in nature, there is no doubt that the capacity of all the stakeholders involved in this process (including IDRC staff) is built, be it the capacity of project beneficiaries to better manage their natural resources, the capacity of local or national institutions to support that process, the capacity of researchers and development workers to better serve their communities or the capacity of decision makers to produce evidence-based and enabling policies. Many would argue that it is this *modus operandi* of IDRC that sets it apart from other donor agencies and places it in the respected position that it holds. Many of such capacity building outcomes are illustrated in the Mongolia case study featured in Box 1, but the same could be said for the majority of the projects that the Program Area (and indeed IDRC as a whole) supports. It is perhaps through such ‘learning by doing’ that the greatest breadth and depth of research and development capacity building occurs and where the most lasting impact will be evident.

4. Conclusion - The Way Forward

At the start of this report, we drew attention to the common conceptual framework which underpins all of the work that we support in the ENRM Program Area, a framework that places people at the centre of development and that is founded on participatory approaches. Throughout the report examples have been given of the increasing influence and maturity of the work of our partners that has been developed over the last 7 to 8 years. The successes and strengths of that work and the proven value of the framework within which it was executed will provide a solid base on which to selectively build for the future.

In looking towards our next CS+PF, we anticipate structurally merging the work of our current 3 regionally based NRM PIs (CBNRM, PLaW and Minga) into a single globally mandated PI in order to further enhance the scope and influence of this work. We anticipate that this will be achieved through:

- whilst maintaining and building on current regional priority areas, an increased ability to further develop existing and new cross-regional programming and knowledge sharing mechanisms, and hence

- an ability to engage more actively with and influence global agencies, issues and forums.
- greater 'resilience' with regard to staff numbers, their disciplinary mix and financial resources available,
- greater flexibility in and more strategic use of staff time, and

There are already several key and positive elements in place to support this merger, namely:

- current regional NRM programming has clear priorities in place, a high profile and growing impact. This will provide the very solid base on which the new PI will build.
- existing staff have a wide range of expertise and disciplinary background and are already strategically placed in all regional offices and in Ottawa,
- many PO's already have multi-regional experience,
- there is already considerable experience with cross-PI collaboration in tools and methods development, agenda setting and problem definition.

Both at the Corporate and Program Area level, we are already engaged in a range of internal and external consultative and evaluation activities to help us identify which of our current areas of strength we will carry forward and build on in the next CSPF, what new areas of strength we may build and what we may choose to devolve. The final outcomes of those consultations will not be known until early 2004, but we already anticipate giving increased emphasis to supporting water management research that seeks to define, put in place and foster mechanisms that provide enabling conditions and support for Local Water Management solutions to the emerging global water concerns (see Box 9). We have a solid base on which to build, as evidenced by the examples given in this report. CBNRM, PLaW and Minga are supporting regional expert consultations to help us refine our regional priorities and identify opportunities and mechanisms for greater inter-regional programming and support within the context of the anticipated merger.

We are also exploring opportunities for linking such work on concerns of water management with those of climate variability and the predicted increase in climatic shocks, especially in those regions already suffering from climatic variability and water stress. We are in discussion with partners in the regions and with relevant international organizations such as the International Secretariat of the Dialogue on Water and Climate and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). We currently anticipate that our support could be centered on research that seeks to understand the communal and institutional coping strategies that are currently in place to deal with existing climatic variability. The key question is are those coping strategies robust enough to deal with increased frequency and severity of future climatic shocks and if not, what needs to be done to make them so? A powerful argument for such research is presented in a paper prepared by IISD, IUCN and the Stockholm Environment Institute as part of their joint initiative on Climate Change, Vulnerable Communities and Adaption entitled "Livelihoods and Climate Change" (March 2003) which concludes - *"Whatever happens to future greenhouse gas*

Box 9 -- A Development Vision for IDRC supported Water Management Research

"A world in which all people have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to water and are empowered to use that resource in an efficient, productive and sustainable manner."

There are some special challenges that will be found in such research:

- the need to address the concerns of multi-stakeholders
- the need to understand the links and information flows between local water management initiatives and their interaction with and dependence upon processes and institutions that exist at a higher order of scale.
- the need to analyze trade-offs between competition for water across and within sectors, and
- the need to ensure that local water management solutions are supported by appropriate policies at a range of scales.

emissions, we are now locked into inevitable changes to climate patterns. Adaptation to climate change is therefore no longer a secondary and long term option only to be used as a last resort. It is now prevalent and imperative, and for those communities already vulnerable to the impacts of present day climate hazards, an urgent imperative."

**Managing Natural Resources (Asia):
Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)**

Team Leader Stephen Tyler	Approved Budget 2003-04: \$3,800,000	Full Time Equivalents 4.1
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Stephen Tyler	City and Reg. Planning	100%	U.Vic./ASRO
Program Officer	Guy Bessette	Education Science/Tech.	30%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Brian Davy	Aquatic Biology	20%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Liz Fajber	Medical Anthropology	50%	SARO
Program Officer	John Graham	Agricultural Economics	80%	ASRO
Program Officer	Ronnie Vernooy	Rural Development	80%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Wendy Manchur	Environmental Studies	50%	Ottawa

The CBNRM program initiative deals with resource degradation and rural poverty in mountainous and coastal areas of South and South-East Asia by promoting participatory research for development innovations to improve the productivity and sustainability of local resource use. These innovations can be technical, such as intensifying shifting cultivation or improving aquaculture. They can also be institutional or policy-focused. Much of the program's efforts are devoted to building capacity for interdisciplinary and participatory field-based research among partners in the poorest parts of Asia.

The objectives of the Program are:

- To identify and analyse the local resources and livelihoods under greatest threat and disaggregate the micro- and macro-causal factors leading to degradation, as well as the differential impacts such degradation is likely to have on women and men.
- To develop new technologies or adaptations of indigenous systems which make more productive and sustainable use of privately- and collectively-managed resources at the community level.
- To improve or promote institutions for the assessment, management and monitoring of natural resource use at the local level.
- To develop new mechanisms and processes for resource planning, access to information, co-management and policy interaction between local communities and various levels of government.
- To compare and exchange lessons and experience in CBNRM between communities, research institutions, and government agencies within the region and in Canada.

**Managing Natural Resources (Latin America and the Caribbean):
MINGA**

Team Leader Simon Carter	Approved Budget 2003-04: \$3,300,000	Full Time Equivalents 4.05
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Simon Carter	Geography	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Daniel Buckles	Sociology/Anthropology	40%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Gilles Cliche	Geography	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Brian Davy	Aquatic Biology	10%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Merle Faminow	Agricultural Economics	60%	LACRO
Program Officer	Gisele Morin-Labatut	Library/Info.Sciences	25%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Wendy Manchur	Environmental Studies	50%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Helen Rajj	Agronomy / Food Eng./ Biotech.	50%	LACRO

MINGA seeks to enhance the capacity of all sectors of society to define, develop and implement effective decisions regarding natural resource management in fragile eco-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean. The program initiative focuses its efforts in the eco-regions of the Andean Highlands, the Central American hillsides, coastal zones and the Amazonian lowlands. MINGA supports analysis of specific issues related to multi-stakeholder approaches to natural resource management in fragile eco-regions where specific sets of natural resources are used by identifiable social actors or stakeholders, such as farmers (men and women), fishers, small-scale businesses and petty traders, resource companies, and townspeople.

The objectives of the Program are:

- To synthesize lessons learned about multi-stakeholder approaches to the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources, including organizational principles and ways to manage conflicts over natural resources.
- To identify and generate effective tools and methodologies to support multi-stakeholder approaches to natural resource management.
- To develop strategies to apply lessons learned from multi-stakeholder natural resource management to new situations.
- To promote the adoption and integration of multi-stakeholder approaches to natural resource management in organizations by analysing and demonstrating their effectiveness and benefits.

**Managing Natural Resources (Africa and the Middle East):
People, Land and Water (PLaW)**

Team Leader Luis Navarro	Approved Budget 2003-04: \$3,400,000	Full Time Equivalents 5.0
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Luis Navarro	Agr./Resource Economics	100%	ESARO
Program Officer	Guy Bessette	Education Science/Tech.	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Innocent Butare	Experimen./Applied Ecol.	60%	WARO
Program Officer	Renaud DePlaen	Medical Geography	30%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Lamia El-Fattal	Public Policy-Agr/Forest.	60%	MERO
Program Officer	Wachira Maina	Intl. Law/Human Rights	20%	ESARO
Program Officer	Vacant	Water Specialist	60%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Maureen Nakirunda	Gender Specialist	50%	ESARO
Research Officer	Zsafia Orosz	Political Science	50%	Ottawa

The PLaW program initiative seeks to improve the capability of and opportunities for rural women and men living in stressed eco-regions of AME to access more quality food, water and jobs in order to escape poor nutrition, health, income and other inequities associated with poverty. To this end, PLaW places strong emphasis on community based and participatory research and communication strategies and related capacity building activities.

The objectives of the Program are:

- To enhance the knowledge and understanding required by users to manage the systemic and external factors that lead to the degradation or to the improvement of the productive and service capacity of land and water resources.
- To help improve local and national policies and institutional arrangements that equitably increase availability, accessibility and sustainable utilization and quality of land and water resources.
- To develop communication strategies that will facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge among stakeholders including community dwellers, to improve decisions and foster participation in development initiatives.

Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (EcoHealth)

Team Leader Jean Lebel	Approved Budget 2003-04: \$4,200,000	Full Time Equivalents 4.9
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Jean Lebel	Environ.Mgmt./Occup. Health-Safety	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Roberto Bazzani	Medicine/Pub.Health	70%	LACRO
Program Officer	Ana Boischio	Environmental Health	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Renaud DePlaen	Medical Geography	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Jean-Michel Labatut	Development Sociology	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Andres Sanchez	Pollution Control/Anthrop.	60%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Zsofia Orosz	Political Science	50%	Ottawa

The Eco-Health program initiative focuses on developing and validating an innovative approach to human health and environmental and natural resource management research. The program focuses on researching the links between human health and the health of ecosystems using a holistic approach to understand these dynamics within complex systems. The research ultimately identifies and tests appropriate environment and natural resource management interventions that lead to improved human health and the sustainability of ecosystems. To achieve sustainable and effective outcomes, the Program Initiative promotes the integration of three methodological pillars: transdisciplinarity, community participation and gender and equity considerations.

The objectives of the Program are:

- To describe, develop, and test new and improved tools and methods for research on ecosystem approaches to human health that incorporate societal needs.
- To describe, develop, and test the ecosystem approach for assessing causal linkages between human health and the natural and anthropogenic environments.
- To support the development and testing of ecosystem management approaches to human health in the context of sustainable ecosystems, with a particular emphasis on the use of participatory methods.
- To disseminate the concept of improving human health through better ecosystem management that respects human development imperatives.

Cities Feeding People (CFP)

Team Leader Luc Mougeot	Approved Budget 2003-04: \$2,200,000	Full Time Equivalents 3.9
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Luc Mougeot	Geography/Env. Impact Assessment	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Ana Boischio	Environmental Health	30%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Naser Faruqui	Environmental Engineering	100%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Kristina Taboulchanas	Environmental Studies/Ecological Agric.	100%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Brenda Lee Wilson	Political Science and Intl. Affairs	60%	Ottawa

The Cities Feeding People program initiative supports research on ways to remove constraints and enhance the potential for urban agriculture to improve household food security, income generation, public health, as well as the management of waste, water, and land, for the benefit of the urban poor.

The objectives of the Program are:

- To strengthen local research capacity and generate information on UA at the household and community level so that cities can formulate and implement policy and technology options, primarily for the benefit of the urban poor.
- To mobilize and enhance regional capacities to share experiences in UA, identify common policy and technology obstacles, and share and adapt solutions through training and networking.
- To influence governments, policy-makers, and international agencies to effectively incorporate UA in their development programs.

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (SUB)

Team Leader Wardie Leppan	Approved Budget 2003-04: \$3,700,000	Full Time Equivalents 4.9
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Wardie Leppan	Political Science	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Daniel Buckles	Sociology and Anthropol.	60%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Innocent Butare	Experimen./Applied Ecol.	40%	WARO
Program Officer	Brian Davy	Aquatic Biology	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Lamia El-Fattal	Policy-Agr./Forestry	40%	MERO
Program Officer	Liz Fajber	Medical Anthropology	50%	SARO
Program Officer	Merle Faminow	Agricultural Economics	40%	LACRO
Program Officer	Ronnie Vernooy	Rural Development	20%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Erin O'Manique	Political Science	70%	Ottawa

The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity program initiative focuses on the relationships between local management of biodiversity and global policy initiatives. Its research challenges are to identify the physical, socioeconomic and cultural conditions under which the use of biological resources enhances the conservation of biological diversity, and to understand how these conditions can be supported by mutually beneficial partnerships between communities and private and public sector organizations. The SUB PI emphasizes the systematic application of field-based research on the use of biological resources for the development of practices, programs and policies that address local concerns and aspirations. The SUB team focuses on research and capacity building that support the sustainable use of genetic resources that are vital to food security, nutrition and primary health care of poor peoples.

The objectives of the Program are:

- To promote use, maintenance, and enhancement of the knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities that conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.
- To support the creation of models for policy and legislation that recognize the rights of indigenous and local communities to genetic resources, and to the equitable sharing of the benefits of the use of these resources in the context of intellectual property regimes.
- To develop gender sensitive incentives, methods, livelihood options and policies that facilitate community-based participation in *in situ* biodiversity conservation and management strategies.

International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS)

Executive Director	Current IDRC funding (2002-03 and 2003-04)	Total IDRC funding to date	Total Co-funding to date
Peter Besseau	\$600,000	\$2,490,000	\$11,678,464

Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Executive Director	Peter Besseau	Political Economy	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Rich Verbisky	Ecology/Ecosystem mapping	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Vacant	Field relevant to IMFNS work	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Christa Mooney	Communication/ Intl. Dev.	100%	Ottawa

The IMFNS fosters cooperation and collaboration through the creation of model forests. These are community-based governance processes dealing with large land areas which are under multiple use. Model forests are stakeholder partnerships which work together to advance the management, conservation, and sustainable development of forest and other resources in the model forest area. They are linked in a worldwide network to share experience and knowledge. Specifically, the secretariat provides technical expertise and assistance to countries and institutions interested in developing model forests and in participating in the network and promotes international cooperation and exchange of experience and knowledge related to sustainable forest management. Areas of activity include governance and support to civil society, best forest management practices, alternative and enhanced livelihood opportunities, conflict mitigation, integrated watershed management, and policy impacts.

The objectives of the Secretariat are, through model forests:

- To foster international cooperation and exchange of ideas on the concept of and practical experience in sustainable forest management.
- To facilitate international cooperation in field-level applications of sustainable forest management.
- To use these concepts, experiences, and applications to support ongoing international discussions on the principles, criteria, and policies related to sustainable forest management.

Environmental Management Secretariat (EMS)

Executive Director	Current IDRC funding (2002-03 and 2003-04)	Total IDRC funding to date	Total Co-funding to date
Walter Ubal	\$800,000	\$3,026,870	\$1,041,593

Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Executive Director	Walter Ubal	Environmental Mgmt and Geography	100%	LACRO
Research Officer	Alicia Iglesias	Urban Development/ Geography	100%	LACRO

The mission of the EMS is to foster a correct environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean, by providing support in decision making (policy formulation and implementation) in relation to the environmental effects of different human activities, through a more dynamic relation between research, horizontal cooperation and a growing availability of relevant information. EMS provides cost-effective information transfer on these issues between local governments, research institutions and civil society, both in the region and in each country. This approach responds to demands for more information/knowledge generated by the transfer of responsibilities following the decentralization processes of governments in the region.

The objectives of the Secretariat are:

- To create, collect, exchange and assess knowledge and information for raising awareness on urban issues in LAC.
- To build capacity for the development and transfer of science-based knowledge on urban environmental management to municipal practices.
- To strengthen collaboration among actors and institutions, and mainstream urban initiatives into environment policies for low-income vulnerable groups through rehabilitation programmes.

Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI)

Responsible Officer: Federico Burone Project Director: Cristina Echavarria	Current IDRC funding \$1,000,000 (2002-03 to 2003-04)	Total IDRC funding to date \$3,547,500 (1998 - 2005)	Total Co-funding to date \$682,871
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Project Director	Cristina Echavarria	Anthropology/Geology	100%	LACRO
Research Officer	Patricia Gonzalez	Mining-Environmental Lawyer	100%	LACRO

The Mining Policy Research Initiative is a multi-stakeholder project that associates stakeholders and responds to demands for research identified by the stakeholder community, including the communities affected by mining, and local and international NGOs interested in mining issues. MPRI builds networks of researchers around identified priority research areas, fostering collaboration, usually around commonly agreed terms of reference and methodologies. In some cases, these networks operate at the regional level, involving researchers from various countries. MPRI is focussing its research support and capacity building in the area of sustainable artisanal and small-scale mining.

The objectives of the Project are:

- To contribute towards the development of research capacity in the region and to promote the participation of research groups in giving social use to existing knowledge about mining, well being and sustainable development.
- To promote and facilitate communication among diverse stakeholders involved in mining through the development of networks of suppliers and users of relevant knowledge and information, in order that they can identify and implement more sustainable policies and practices.
- To promote more inclusive and equitable decision-making processes, by strengthening the capacities of the more vulnerable stakeholders and by increasing their access to information and to capacity building opportunities for the co-management of mining impacts.

EcoPlata 3: The Health of the Rio

Responsible Officer: Federico Burone Project Director: Walter Couto	Current IDRC funding: \$400,000	Total IDRC funding to date \$2,446,000	Total Co-funding to date \$647,250
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Project Director	Walter Couto	Natural Resource Management	100%	LACRO

The Rio de la Plata, the widest fluvio-marine water body in the world, sustains a wide range of species, many of which have important economic and nutritional value. The Rio de la Plata system, which separates Uruguay and Argentina, is also the major fishing zone for Uruguayan artisanal fishers who share the resource with the in-shore industrial fleet. The EcoPlata Project (Integrated Uruguayan Coastal Zone Management of the Rio de la Plata Support Program) aims to generate a multi-disciplinary approach to improve coastal resource management, ensuring the continuation of present activities in a sustainable manner, and establishing new environment-friendly activities. Ecoplata seeks to establish a true multi-stakeholder, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) initiative involving research on economic valuation of coastal resources and activities, effects of environmental conditions on fisheries, water contamination and nutrient enrichment, management planning for environmental protection, and urban planning.

The objectives of the Project are:

- To manage the resources of the Rio de la Plata Uruguayan costal zone in an integrated manner.
- To design coastal management proposals that will contribute to reduced contamination and nutrient over-enrichment of critical coastal waters through the implementation of actions that promote the preservation and sustainable use of coastal resources.
- To develop decision making tools that will help the Government, and specifically Municipalities, to arrive to management policies.
- To establish communication forums between the community, the administration, and researchers.
- To solve existing conflicts in the use of coastal resources.
- To propose protective actions for scarcely used areas and corrective actions for areas being degraded.